



# The Dignity Digest

Issue # 171

January 25, 2024

*The Dignity Digest* is information compiled by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts concerning long-term services, support, living options, and care issued each Monday.

**\*May require registration before accessing article.**

DignityMA Zoom Sessions

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts participants meet via Zoom every other Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Sessions are open to all. To receive session notices with agenda and Zoom links, please send a request via [info@DignityAllianceMA.org](mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org).

Spotlight



Basil Maurice (Stavros), Brianna Zimmerman, Congressman Richard Neal, Paul Lanzikos (DignityMA), Former Senator Richard Moore (DignityMA)

[\*Congressman Richard Neal honored by Dignity Alliance of Massachusetts\*](#)

**22WWLP.COM**

By Melissa Torres

January 22, 2024

The Dignity Alliance of Massachusetts hosted an event Monday honoring Congressman Richard Neal as its Federal House Legislator of the Year.

Dignity Alliance is dedicated to transformative change to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. They are committed to advancing new ways of providing long-term services and care, while respecting choice and self-determination.

On Monday, they presented an award to Congressman Neal who has demonstrated exceptional work on long term services and supports. Neal has helped transform the current health care landscape, expanding care and coverage for our most vulnerable populations.

“There’s a corresponding interest that we have in preservation and growth of Medicare. Medicare has changed lives all for the better. I was actually able to do something that was unheard of, I successfully amended an entitlement program and the amendment went like this; If you’re 65 or older and you have an opiate addiction, you now qualify for Medicare.” said Neal.

Other legislators received nominations for their advocacy and support on behalf of older adults, persons with disabilities and their caregivers as recognized by participants in Dignity Alliance.

Some of the previous winners of this legislative award include Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Ruth Balser.

Quotes

*Private equity acquisition was associated with increased hospital-acquired adverse events, including falls and central line–associated bloodstream infections.*

[\*Changes in Hospital Adverse Events and Patient Outcomes Associated With Private Equity Acquisition\*](#), JAMA Network, December 26, 2023

*“I think that’s one of the most powerful arguments that the industry has used to scare policymakers and senators and*

*other decision-makers, and it's really disconnected if you think about it. When you actually look at the data, and you look at the homes closing, it's really because they're just bad homes providing bad care, and they can't fill their beds so they're just closing down."*

Sam Brooks, director of public policy, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, [Data shows nursing home closure often linked to care issues](#), **Roll Call**, January 18, 2024

*"If we don't know where the dollars went and there's no accountability, it is really hard for us to say the reason for . . . closures is that they didn't get enough reimbursement or money here."*

Andrea Earl, associate state director of advocacy and outreach for AARP Texas, [Data shows nursing home closure often linked to care issues](#), **Roll Call**, January 18, 2024

*"There's a corresponding interest that we have in preservation and growth of Medicare. Medicare has changed lives all for the better. I was actually able to do something that was unheard of, I successfully amended an entitlement program and the amendment went like this; If you're 65 or older and you have an opiate addiction, you now qualify for Medicare."*

Congressman Richard Neal, [Congressman Richard Neal honored by Dignity Alliance of Massachusetts](#), **22WWLP.COM**, January 22, 2024



*"The evidence from Florida indicates that minimum staffing requirements do make a difference in staffing levels, as prior AARP reports have shown."*

AARP [Report, 'Concerning' Link Found Between Reduced Nursing Home Staffing Hours and Hospitalizations](#), **Skilled Nursing News**, January 17, 2024

*"Having a cognitive or intellectual disability shouldn't stop people from having a voice when it matters most. One day you, a member of your family or a close friend may need decision-making support. When that happens, you'll be glad that [supportive decision making] is an option."*

	<p>Jonathan Gardner, co-chair of the Massachusetts Supported Decision-Making Coalition, <a href="#">I'm an adult with autism. I built a team to help me make decisions</a> (WBUR Cognoscenti, January 18, 2024)</p> <p><i>"Transparency is really a democracy issue. If you can't see how your lawmakers are voting or who is influencing them, never mind if you don't have enough notice to testify at a hearing, how are you supposed to meaningfully participate in the lawmaking process? The Sunlight Act would go a long way toward opening up our state government to the voices of everyday people. Today is a great day for our movement."</i></p> <p>Act on Mass Executive Director Erin Leahy, <a href="#">Sunlight Act On Move, Targeting Legislature And Governor</a> (State House News, January 24, 2024)</p> <p><i>"Your aging anxiety used to take place in the privacy of your own home or maybe with a very close friend or family member. Now it happens on TikTok, with an audience."</i></p> <p>Renee Engeln, psychology professor at Northwestern University and the director of the Body and Media Lab, <a href="#">Why Does Gen Z Believe It's 'Aging Like Milk'?</a> (New York Times (free access), January 23, 2024)</p> <p><i>You see, when firms like Cerberus do business, it's often "heads I win, tails you lose."</i></p> <p><a href="#">The hound from hell</a>, *Boston Globe, January 22, 2024</p> <p><i>"Affordability continues to be a major challenge for Massachusetts residents and their loved ones seeking long-term care, and my office will continue to hold accountable those who seek to take advantage in an already fragile and high-cost system."</i></p> <p>Attorney General Andrea Campbell, <a href="#">AG Campbell Announces Settlements With Three Temporary Nurse Staffing Agencies For Overcharging Long-Term Care Facilities</a>, Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, January 19, 2024</p>
Call for Session Proposals	<p><b>The Consumer Voice</b>  <a href="#">Consumer Voice 48th Annual Conference</a></p> <p>Each year, Consumer Voice hosts a conference to educate and empower consumers and consumer advocates. The conference covers long-term care issues, including current trends, best practices, advocacy opportunities, and new research. Our conference gives attendees the opportunity to learn,</p>

	<p>network, and exchange ideas with advocates from all over the country. The 2024 Conference will be in-person, and conference plenaries and workshops will be livestreamed. The conference will be held September 23 to 26, 2024 in San Francisco, California.</p> <p>The Consumer Voice is seeking proposals for conference sessions that create an engaging, informative conference agenda that provides resources, tools, opportunities for discussion, and strategies our attendees can incorporate in their life and/or advocacy.</p> <p>Two easy steps to submit a proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the <a href="#">Call for Proposals and Presenter Requirements</a>.</li> <li>2. Submit your proposal via <a href="#">Survey Monkey</a>. NOTE: You will not be able to save incomplete submissions in SurveyMonkey, so you may want to review and print or save the <a href="#">PDF version</a> of the proposal questions so you can plan your responses prior to starting the submission.</li> </ol> <p>Proposals are due by March 1, 2024.</p>
<p>State Budget</p>	<p><b>State House News</b>  January 24, 2024  <a href="#">Healey Budget Raises Spending By \$2.1 Billion</a>  By Chris Lisinski</p> <p><i>Guv Turns To One-Time Revenues To Finance Spending Priorities</i></p> <p>he second annual state budget bill from Gov. Maura Healey proposes \$58.15 billion in total spending, suggesting comparably modest growth over prior years, and a bevy of cost-control maneuvers in an attempt to navigate an increasingly uncertain financial environment.</p> <p>Healey's fiscal year 2025 budget calls for about \$2.07 billion or 3.7 percent more in spending compared to <a href="#">the fiscal 2024 budget she signed in August</a>. A combination of expanded and new investments, including hundreds of millions of dollars for MBTA operations and low-income fares, are among the measures driving up the bottom line. . .</p> <p>Cost controls include <a href="#">closure of the MCI-Concord medium security prison</a> and changes at MassHealth, which typically reflects the largest share of the budget. The budget will propose "flat spending" for MassHealth's personal care attendant (PCA) program, reflecting a cap on hours authorized for meal preparation and some eligibility changes related to Activities of Daily Living (ADL) support.</p> <p>The bill does not propose any new tax increases to generate additional revenue, nor does it recommend tapping into the state's more than \$8 billion "rainy day" savings account. . .</p> <p>The administration proposes another \$682 million in spending on the Medical Assistance Trust Fund and \$1.3 billion in surtax spending, an increase of \$300 million over the fiscal 2024 budget that marked the first use of the voter-approved revenue source. . .</p> <p>Her annual state budget proposes level-funding the emergency assistance shelter system at \$325 million in fiscal year 2025, which officials said could fund service for about 4,100 families -- just a bit more than half of the 7,500-family cap the administration implemented in response to unprecedented demand. The administration has estimated in recent reports to the Legislature it will need more than \$900 million annually this year and next year to cover costs.</p>

	<p>Healey on Wednesday also plans to file a separate supplemental budget that proposes draining a savings account, known as the transitional escrow fund, to help manage the shelter crisis in fiscal years 2024 and 2025.</p>
<p>Recruitment</p>	<p><b>Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General</b>  <a href="#"><i>Assistant Attorney General</i></a>          Health Care &amp; Fair Competition Bureau          False Claims Division</p> <p><b>Massachusetts Law Reform Institute</b>  <a href="#"><i>Health Law Senior Staff Attorney</i></a>          Will play a lead role in crafting and carrying out MLRI’s health advocacy agenda- through litigation, administrative and legislative advocacy, and coalition-building with legal aid, advocacy organizations and community-based groups.</p> <p><b>Disability Law Center</b>  <a href="#"><i>Supervising Attorney</i></a>          The Supervising Attorney will serve as a middle manager, supervising Senior and Staff Attorneys.</p> <p><b>Prisoners’ Legal Services</b>  <a href="#"><i>PLS Executive Director</i></a>          The Executive Director of PLS has ultimate responsibility for the programmatic performance, financial strength, and administrative functioning of the organization.</p>
<p>Older Americans Month</p>  	<p><b>Administration on Community Living</b>  <a href="#"><i>Older Americans Month 2024</i></a></p> <p>Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation’s observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The 2024 theme is <b>Powered by Connection</b>, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being. We will explore the vital role that connectedness plays in supporting independence and aging in place by combatting isolation, loneliness, and other issues.</p> <p>Join us in promoting the benefits of connecting with others. Here are some ways you can participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share facts about the mental, physical, and emotional health benefits of social connection and how it contributes to overall well-being.</li> <li>• Promote resources that help older adults engage, like community events, social clubs, and volunteer opportunities.</li> <li>• Connect older adults with local services, such as transportation, which can help them overcome obstacles to achieving or maintaining meaningful relationships.</li> <li>• Encourage partners to host a connection-centric event or program focused on older adult mentors to youth, peer-to-peer support, or similar efforts.</li> <li>• Challenge professional and personal networks to prioritize meaningful social connections and share the benefits.</li> <li>• Inspire older adults to share what connection means to them on social media using the hashtag #PoweredByConnection.</li> </ul>
<p>Guide to news items in this week’s <i>Dignity Digest</i></p>	<p><b>Nursing Homes</b>  <a href="#"><i>AG Campbell Announces Settlements With Three Temporary Nurse Staffing Agencies For Overcharging Long-Term Care Facilities</i></a> (Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, January 19, 2024)</p>

	<p><a href="#">Data shows nursing home closure often linked to care issues</a> (Roll Call, January 18, 2024)</p> <p><a href="#">‘Concerning’ Link Found Between Reduced Nursing Home Staffing Hours and Hospitalizations</a> (Skilled Nursing News, January 17, 2024)</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p><a href="#">State funds boost affordable housing</a> (Daily Hampshire Gazette, January 23, 2024)</p> <p><b>Private Equity</b></p> <p><a href="#">The hound from hell</a> (*Boston Globe, January 22, 2024)</p> <p><a href="#">Changes in Hospital Adverse Events and Patient Outcomes Associated With Private Equity Acquisition</a> (JAMA Network, December 26, 2023)</p> <p><b>Supportive Decision Making</b></p> <p><a href="#">I’m an adult with autism. I built a team to help me make decisions</a> (WBUR Cognoscenti, January 18, 2024)</p> <p><b>Covid / Long Covid</b></p> <p><a href="#">4,396 confirmed cases and 40 deaths in a week. See the latest COVID-19 data from Mass.</a> (*Boston Globe, January 18, 2024)</p> <p><a href="#">Zapping the Vagus Nerve Could Relieve Some Long COVID Symptoms</a> (Scientific American, December 23, 2023)</p> <p><b>Disability Topics</b></p> <p><a href="#">Artist sculpts famous works of art for visually impaired to enjoy</a> (Sunday Today (video report), January 21, 2024)</p> <p><b>Aging Topics</b></p> <p><a href="#">Why Does Gen Z Believe It’s ‘Aging Like Milk’?</a> (New York Times (free access), January 23, 2024)</p> <p><b>Public Policy</b></p> <p><a href="#">Sunlight Act On Move, Targeting Legislature And Governor</a> (State House News, January 24, 2024)</p>
<p>Webinars and Other Online Sessions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies</b></p> <p>Thursday, January 25, 2024, 4:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Release of the new America's Rental Housing 2024 report</i></p> <p>New Report to Be Released at Live Event in Washington, DC</p> <p>In 2022, half of all US renters were cost burdened. This all-time high of 22.4 million renter households spent more than 30 percent of their income on rent and was an increase of 2 million households in just three years.</p> <p>The event will be livestreamed and registration is required.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Neera Tanden</a>, Director, Domestic Policy Council, The White House</li> <li>• <a href="#">Whitney Airgood-Obrycki</a>, Senior Research Associate, Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies</li> <li>• <a href="#">Peter Cannava</a>, Head of Multifamily Capital, Wells Fargo</li> <li>• <a href="#">Lautaro Diaz</a>, Vice President, Housing &amp; Financial Empowerment, UnidosUS</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ethan Handelman</a>, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily, US Department of Housing and Urban Development</li> <li>• <a href="#">Chris Herbert</a>, Managing Director, Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies</li> <li>• <a href="#">Robbie Sequeira</a>, Staff Writer, Stateline</li> <li>• <a href="#">Jacqueline Waggoner</a>, President, Solutions Division, Enterprise Community Partners</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Attend Online</a></p> </li> <li> <p><b>The Long Term Care Discussion Group</b></p> </li> </ol>



	<p>Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.  <i>Public Policy for Long-Term Care Financing</i></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b>  Mark J. Warshawsky, American Enterprise Institute. He is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he focuses on Social Security and retirement issues, pensions, long-term care, disability insurance, and the federal budget. Before joining AEI, Dr. Warshawsky served as deputy commissioner for retirement and disability policy at the Social Security Administration.</p> <p><b>TOPIC:</b>  Long-term care (LTC) in the United States is financed by a mix of private and, mainly, public funds. With the projected aging of the population, it is not fiscally sustainable. The system—especially Medicaid public insurance—is also unfair, riddled with bad incentives and poorly administered and is getting worse. Federal social insurance initiatives have failed and state insurance programs are poor and unpopular. Yet the existing structure, including private insurance, can be improved and the situation rectified by a few key changes, which will be put forward in this session. In particular, the proposal puts Medicaid back in its intended place and incentivizes a revitalization of private LTC insurance.</p> <p><a href="#">Join Zoom Meeting</a>  <a href="https://ahip-org.zoom.us/j/83956477037?pwd=aU1DaWQ4aUgxazNncnNBZ1o1SC9lUT09">https://ahip-org.zoom.us/j/83956477037?pwd=aU1DaWQ4aUgxazNncnNBZ1o1SC9lUT09</a>  Meeting ID: 839 5647 7037  Passcode: 912233  Dial-in: +1 301 715 8592 US</p>
<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions</p>	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at:  <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/">https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</a></p>
<p>Nursing Homes</p>	<p><b>3. Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General</b>  January 19, 2024  <a href="#">AG Campbell Announces Settlements With Three Temporary Nurse Staffing Agencies For Overcharging Long-Term Care Facilities</a>  <i>Agencies Will Collectively Pay More than \$260,000 as Part of AG Campbell’s Ongoing Efforts to Curb Rate Violation</i>  Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell today announced settlements with three temporary nurse staffing agencies to resolve allegations that they failed to comply with regulations and charged for temporary nurse staffing at long-term care facilities at rates above the maximum rates allowed by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).  One of the settlements is with Nebraska-based Lawrence Recruiting Specialists, Inc., which will pay \$200,000, including refunds of \$75,000, to affected long-term care facilities and a civil penalty of approximately \$125,000, to resolve allegations that they failed to comply with and/or violated EOHHS’s regulations by charging for temporary nurse staffing services at rates above those allowed by EOHHS. The Attorney General contends such practices are unfair or deceptive in violation of the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act, G.L. c. 93A.  A second settlement is with Maryland-based Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc., which will pay approximately \$1,500 back to affected long-term care facilities and \$55,000 in penalties to resolve similar allegations. The third settlement, also resolving similar allegations, is with Belmont-based Nursing on Demand, LLC, which has agreed to pay \$7,388.69, including full restitution to the long-term care facilities affected by the conduct as well as penalties.</p>

“Affordability continues to be a major challenge for Massachusetts residents and their loved ones seeking long-term care, and my office will continue to hold accountable those who seek to take advantage in an already fragile and high-cost system,” said **AG Campbell**.

Under the terms of the settlements, all three agencies have agreed to measures that will ensure their future compliance with rate regulations. Nursing on Demand will also maintain a corporate compliance program, which includes compliance training for employees, a code of conduct that will ensure compliance with EOHHS rate regulations, and periodic auditing, testing, and monitoring.

This settlement is part of AG Campbell’s broader effort to ensure compliance with EOHHS rate requirements for temporary nurse staffing agencies. In March 2023, AG Campbell issued an [advisory](#) in response to allegations received by the AG’s Office that some temporary nurse staffing agencies have been attempting to overcharge, demand additional fees, or enter misleading arrangements with long-term care facilities.

#### 4. Roll Call

January 18, 2024

[Data shows nursing home closure often linked to care issues](#)

By Jessie Hellmann

*Debate over closures often omits key details on quality, staff turnover, experts say*

When 17 nursing homes closed in Ohio in fiscal 2023, the Ohio Health Care Association, which represents nursing homes in the state, echoed a refrain often used by the industry to explain closures and get more funding from the state: Medicaid reimbursement rates are too low and it is too hard to find staff.

It’s the same argument that the industry has made on a national scale for decades, but particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw thousands of residents die while facilities faced increased labor and supply costs.

While staffing and reimbursement issues have certainly contributed to closures in some cases, especially for smaller, rural facilities, experts say the debate often omits some important facts and nuance: specifically, that many facilities that close are poor quality, have high staff turnover and are located in areas where multiple other homes and alternatives exist, making it difficult to fill empty beds. Others turn into assisted living facilities, which are more loosely regulated. A handful were kicked off of the Medicare program for low quality. . .

There are about 15,000 nursing homes in the U.S., and dozens close every year. While experts believe there was likely an uptick in closures during the pandemic, experts think COVID-19 aid to the industry likely prevented more facilities from closing. . .

And when nursing homes close, that is also blamed on reimbursement rates and workforce shortages.

But the truth is more complicated, experts say.

“In general, the lowest-quality care facilities are the ones that end up closing because they just have lower census,” meaning fewer residents. In those cases, facilities bring in less money, said Robert Applebaum, who studies nursing home closures and quality as part of his role as director of the Ohio Long-Term Care Research Project. . .

In fiscal 2023, 188 nursing homes, also known as skilled nursing facilities, closed in the U.S., according to a CQ Roll Call analysis of government data.



	<p>Overall, facilities that closed were more likely to have had severe inspection violations, had racked up fines for providing poor care, were rated poorly by state and federal governments and were on lists for extra monitoring. Some were facing wrongful death lawsuits or had stopped paying their bills. While some 40 percent of those closed facilities were four or five star facilities, 31 percent of closed facilities were one star or part of the special focus facility program, compared with 23 percent of facilities overall.</p> <p><b>5. Skilled Nursing News</b>  January 17, 2024  <a href="#"><u>'Concerning' Link Found Between Reduced Nursing Home Staffing Hours and Hospitalizations</u></a>  By Amy Stulick  [A]ccording to a <a href="#"><u>report</u></a> from AARP Florida, the third report the advocacy group for older adults has <a href="#"><u>released</u></a> since staffing hours were changed in 2022. Between 2019 to 2020 and 2022 to 2023, the rate of re-hospitalizations among short-stay residents increased by 12%, the report found. For long-stay residents, AARP Florida said the number of unplanned hospitalizations increased by more than 20% in just one year. . .  Nursing staff in Florida, including aides and assistants provided an average of 3.86 hours of care per resident per day, a 30-minute reduction from 2021, with a 16-minute reduction following the enactment of new and reduced staffing standards, according to the AARP report.</p>
Housing	<p><b>6. Daily Hampshire Gazette</b>  January 23, 2024  <a href="#"><u>State funds boost affordable housing</u></a>  By James Pentland  Affordable housing projects in 19 communities, including Northampton, South Hadley and Holyoke, will benefit from subsidies and tax credits announced Monday by Gov. Maura Healey.  Area projects approved for funding are Prospect Place, a former nursing home on Bridge Road in Northampton, Plaza Apartments in South Hadley, and Library Commons 2. . .  The 6.2-acre former Northampton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center at 737 Bridge Road was purchased in April 2021 for \$1.9 million by the Pointer Fund and Pointer Development. . .  The project received \$2 million in November from the Department of Energy Resources to install a ground source heat pump system and a 300kilowatt solar system. . .  The projects are receiving nearly \$95 million from the Low-Income Tax Credit, including about \$50.4 million in federal tax credits and \$44.5 million in state tax credits, a spokesperson from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities told the State House News Service.  They're also supported by about \$138 million in subsidies from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Housing and Stabilization Fund, and the Housing Innovation Fund, as well as other state and federal programs, the spokesperson said.</p> <p><b>7. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)</b>  <a href="#"><u>CFPB's Older American Housing Guides: Perfect Timing for Serving Senior Homeowners</u></a></p>

	<p>The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) new guides help older homeowners navigate what to do with their home when a life changing event or change in health occurs. The guides are designed to help older adult homeowners evaluate what options are best for their situation. Housing counselors will also find the new guides useful in supporting their work with older adult homeowners, particularly for post-purchase services. <a href="#">Visit HCT to learn more.</a></p>
Private Equity	<p><b>8. *Boston Globe</b>  January 22, 2024  <a href="#">The hound from hell</a>  By Larry Edelman  After a national expansion, Steward is on the ropes. Last week, the Globe’s Jessica Bartlett broke the news that the company — now owned by a group of physician-managers — is having trouble paying rent and may have to sell or close hospitals.  But the deal was a big win for Cerberus. It cashed out of Steward in early 2021, quadrupling its money with an \$800 million gain, according to Bloomberg.</p> <p>The backstory: Cerberus bought Caritas Christi four years after a blockbuster hospital deal: the 2006 leveraged buyout of HCA for \$21 billion by Kohlberg Kravis &amp; Roberts and Bain Capital of Boston.  The sheer size of the acquisition — and the involvement of two respected firms — supercharged a health care buyout binge that extended beyond hospitals to nursing homes, physician practices, and home health providers. . .</p> <p><b>Minimal disclosure:</b> As a private company, Steward isn’t required to make its financial statements public. Moreover, it has largely ignored Massachusetts requirements that it file detailed financial information on an annual basis. But <a href="#">publicly traded MPT</a> discloses some Steward financials because the chain is its largest tenant, accounting for about 20 percent of revenue. That’s how we know that Steward booked operating losses of \$322 million in 2017 and \$270 million in 2018. . .</p> <p><b>Parting thought:</b> It’s not the only time the firm — named after the three-headed dog that guards the gates of Hades in Greek mythology — scored big on a company that went bust.  It did well on its buyout of Mervyn’s by selling off the department store chain’s real estate before it went bankrupt. And it recouped its investment and then some at <a href="#">arms maker Remington</a> by paying itself a dividend before the company went broke. Such strategies are common in private equity.  You see, when firms like Cerberus do business, it’s often “heads I win, tails you lose.”</p> <p><b>9. JAMA Network</b>  December 26, 2023  <a href="#">Changes in Hospital Adverse Events and Patient Outcomes Associated With Private Equity Acquisition</a>  By Sneha Kannan, MD; Joseph Dov Bruch, PhD; Zirui Song, MD  Abstract  <b>Importance</b> The effects of private equity acquisitions of US hospitals on the clinical quality of inpatient care and patient outcomes remain largely unknown.</p>

	<p><b>Objective</b> To examine changes in hospital-acquired adverse events and hospitalization outcomes associated with private equity acquisitions of US hospitals.</p> <p><b>Design, Setting, and Participants</b> Data from 100% Medicare Part A claims for 662 095 hospitalizations at 51 private equity–acquired hospitals were compared with data for 4 160 720 hospitalizations at 259 matched control hospitals (not acquired by private equity) for hospital stays between 2009 and 2019. An event study, difference-in-differences design was used to assess hospitalizations from 3 years before to 3 years after private equity acquisition using a linear model that was adjusted for patient and hospital attributes.</p> <p><b>Main Outcomes and Measures</b> Hospital-acquired adverse events (synonymous with hospital-acquired conditions; the individual conditions were defined by the US Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services as falls, infections, and other adverse events), patient mix, and hospitalization outcomes (including mortality, discharge disposition, length of stay, and readmissions).</p> <p><b>Results</b> Hospital-acquired adverse events (or conditions) were observed within 10,091 hospitalizations. After private equity acquisition, Medicare beneficiaries admitted to private equity hospitals experienced a 25.4% increase in hospital-acquired conditions compared with those treated at control hospitals (4.6 [95% CI, 2.0-7.2] additional hospital-acquired conditions per 10 000 hospitalizations, <math>P = .004</math>). This increase in hospital-acquired conditions was driven by a 27.3% increase in falls (<math>P = .02</math>) and a 37.7% increase in central line–associated bloodstream infections (<math>P = .04</math>) at private equity hospitals, despite placing 16.2% fewer central lines. Surgical site infections doubled from 10.8 to 21.6 per 10 000 hospitalizations at private equity hospitals despite an 8.1% reduction in surgical volume; meanwhile, such infections decreased at control hospitals, though statistical precision of the between-group comparison was limited by the smaller sample size of surgical hospitalizations. Compared with Medicare beneficiaries treated at control hospitals, those treated at private equity hospitals were modestly younger, less likely to be dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, and more often transferred to other acute care hospitals after shorter lengths of stay. In-hospital mortality (<math>n = 162\ 652</math> in the population or 3.4% on average) decreased slightly at private equity hospitals compared with the control hospitals; there was no differential change in mortality by 30 days after hospital discharge.</p> <p><b>Conclusions and Relevance</b> Private equity acquisition was associated with increased hospital-acquired adverse events, including falls and central line–associated bloodstream infections, along with a larger but less statistically precise increase in surgical site infections. Shifts in patient mix toward younger and fewer dually eligible beneficiaries admitted and increased transfers to other hospitals may explain the small decrease in in-hospital mortality at private equity hospitals relative to the control hospitals, which was no longer evident 30 days after discharge. These findings heighten concerns about the implications of private equity on health care delivery.</p>
<p>Supported Decision Making</p> <p><i>Jonathan Gardner is a decision-maker and self-advocate. He is an ambassador for Operation</i></p>	<p><b>10. WBUR Cognoscenti</b>  January 18, 2024  <a href="#"><i>I’m an adult with autism. I built a team to help me make decisions</i></a>  By Jonathan Gardner with Sarah Boonin  I am a 21-year-old home school graduate and cancer survivor who happens to have autism. A lot of people like me have a guardian — but I don’t. A guardian is</p>

*House Call with The Arc of Massachusetts, a Flutie Fellow for the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism and a board member of Massachusetts Advocates for Children. He is also the co-chair of the Massachusetts Supported Decision-Making Coalition. Gardner wrote this piece with the support of [Sarah Boonin](#), an associate dean and clinical professor of law at Suffolk University.*



Jonathan Gardner with Governor Healey and his mother, Nancy Gardner.

someone like a family member, friend or professional appointed by the court to make decisions about another person’s health, safety and self-care when the court decides that person can’t make their own decisions. Instead of a guardian, I use a tool called [supported decision-making or SDM](#).

When I was 16, the public school system told my mother and me that I would need full guardianship once I turned 18. In that case, my legal guardian would have the final say in all major decisions about my life, including where I would live and what services I would receive, along with all of my financial and medical decisions — likely for the rest of my life. This didn't feel right. I had always been involved in making my own decisions, and it didn’t make sense to take that away from me once I became an adult. Luckily, my mom knew a little about SDM, so we decided to try that instead.

SDM is an alternative to guardianship where a person like me, a “decision-maker,” picks a group of people they trust to help them make their own decisions. SDM enables me to be the CEO of my own life — just like most other people. I have used SDM my entire adult life, including in my fight against cancer. I would not be the person I am today without SDM.

I started by choosing the people I trust most to be my “supporters.” I then chose which supporters would help me with which types of decisions, and how I wanted each of them to help. My supporters include my mom, dad, brother, my mentor, friends, a therapist and others. I entered into an agreement with my supporters, and my plan has evolved as I’ve gotten older. My supporters provide different types of advice and assistance to me so I can live my best life. Thanks to SDM, I am the one in control of my life, not a judge or guardian.

Right now, Massachusetts lawmakers are considering [a bill](#) that would legally recognize SDM as an alternative to [adult guardianship](#).

Rather than taking decisions away from people like me, SDM allows us to use supporters to help us make and communicate our own decisions. In other words, SDM works like other accommodations for people with disabilities that allow us to live our best lives.

In 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a very rare form of cancer. By then, I was already using SDM and expected to use it in my cancer care too. However, the COVID-19 visitor restrictions made using SDM harder because the hospital didn’t want anyone but me at appointments. On top of that, my doctors and nurses had never heard of SDM and expected a guardian to make my decisions. We had to advocate forcefully with the hospital to allow my supporters to be with me at my appointments.

Six months into chemotherapy and two weeks into radiation, I was feeling horrible and hopeless and I wanted to quit my treatments. I gave my mom, one of my supporters, the okay to contact my medical team, and together they came up with a different plan for me to consider. I was able to talk to my supporters about the plan and get my questions answered before I agreed to move forward with it. That plan ultimately saved my life and protected my mental health.

I am cancer-free today because of SDM. My treatment team respected my SDM agreement because they saw that it worked. But it could have gone differently. The lack of legal recognition for SDM in Massachusetts was one more barrier during an already stressful time. The SDM legislation now on Beacon Hill would eliminate that barrier for others.

	<p>The <a href="#">proposed law</a> would legally recognize SDM agreements and establish common standards for them. Equally important, the law would allow doctors, schools, banks, landlords and others to rely on the decisions made under SDM agreements. It includes some <a href="#">other important features</a>. It would empower decision-makers to create, change or end their SDM agreements at any time and ensure that they include important safeguards against abuse.</p> <p>But most importantly, the legislation would ensure that when youth with disabilities turn 18, they are made aware of SDM as an option and would require judges to consider SDM before ruling on a guardianship petition. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have passed similar SDM laws.</p> <p>Some worry that people with disabilities might be harmed or abused without guardians. My experience has been the opposite. SDM has allowed me to practice and strengthen my decision-making skills and learn self-advocacy. A guardianship wouldn't have given me the same opportunity to grow and develop as an adult who can speak up and advocate for myself. But until SDM legislation is passed in Massachusetts, I have no guarantee that my decisions will be respected. Worse still, others like me may be steered into overly restrictive guardianships that don't give them a chance to develop their own decision-making skills.</p> <p>Guardianships — even broad ones — are and will always be necessary and helpful in some cases. But people with disabilities are all different, and our needs and preferences cannot be met with guardianship alone. Personally, I would be a shell of myself if I had a court-appointed guardian. Not only would the world see me differently, but I would see myself differently.</p> <p>Having a cognitive or intellectual disability shouldn't stop people from having a voice when it matters most. One day you, a member of your family or a close friend may need decision-making support. When that happens, you'll be glad that SDM is an option.</p>
Covid / Long Covid	<p><b>11. *Boston Globe</b> January 18, 2024 <a href="#">4,396 confirmed cases and 40 deaths in a week. See the latest COVID-19 data from Mass.</a> By Peter Bailey-Wells, Ryan Huddle, Daigo Fujiwara and Amanda Kaufman Massachusetts on Thursday reported 4,396 new confirmed coronavirus cases and 40 deaths in the week from Jan. 7-Jan. 13. The state also reported that 4.2 percent of all total hospitalizations during that timeframe in Massachusetts were related to COVID-19, meaning about 620 patients were hospitalized with COVID-19, and that the seven-day percent positivity was 13.85 percent. <a href="#">COVID reporting dashboard</a></p> <p><b>12. Scientific American</b> December 23, 2023 <a href="#">Zapping the Vagus Nerve Could Relieve Some Long COVID Symptoms</a> By Shi En Kim <i>Ongoing research shows electrical vagus nerve stimulators could relieve some long COVID symptoms. But are the expensive devices worth the price?</i> Researchers are increasingly recognizing that long COVID is as much a <a href="#">neurological disorder</a> as a cardiovascular and respiratory one. Treatment studies have highlighted the condition's neurological aspects, including some that are potentially related to the vagus nerve. Early small-scale trials of vagal</p>

	<p>stimulation have seen reductions in hallmark long COVID symptoms such as <a href="#">chronic fatigue</a>, headaches and irregular <a href="#">blood pressure</a>. Another study demonstrated that the devices used to send electrical stimulation through the skin are safe and easy to use at home—offering convenience, accessibility and less risk of contagion. Scientists are still studying which long COVID symptoms this technique can reliably address, which patients will benefit and how long the effects last. In any case, the vagus nerve’s influence throughout the body appears to be key for treating some of the all-encompassing manifestations of long COVID. . .</p> <p>There’s also one glaring caveat to vagus nerve stimulation: the price. The electroCore device, for example, is offered on a pay-per-use basis that can cost a person more than \$7,000 per year without any discounts.</p>
Disability Topics	<p><b>13. Sunday Today (video report)</b>  January 21, 2024  <a href="#">Artist sculpts famous works of art for visually impaired to enjoy</a>  By Priscilla Thompson  From Van Gogh’s The Starry Night, to Da Vinci’s Mona Lisa, Texas-based artist Tomas Bustos is reimagining the world’s most iconic works of art by sculpting it to scale for the blind and visually impaired to experience.</p>
Aging Topics	<p><b>14. New York Times (free access)</b>  January 23, 2024  <a href="#">Why Does Gen Z Believe It’s ‘Aging Like Milk’?</a>  By Callie Holtermann  It is a disorienting moment for anyone who happens to be getting older. Look left, and teenagers are shopping for <a href="#">anti-aging serums</a>. Look right, and supermodels in their 50s appear <a href="#">on magazine covers</a> looking uncannily smooth. When an A.I. filter <a href="#">that adds wrinkles</a> took off last summer, it was treated as a kind of novelty: Influencers tried on digital frown lines and gasped. Anxiety around aging may be universal, but recently some members of Gen Z have been voicing acute distress. A few widely circulated social media posts have advanced the tantalizing theory that Gen Z is “<a href="#">aging like milk</a>,” which is to say, not well.</p> <p>In <a href="#">one TikTok video</a> that has been seen nearly 20 million times, Jordan Howlett, a 26-year-old with a dense beard and professorial glasses, says that he thinks he and other members of Gen Z look more mature because of the stressors heaped on the generation. In another, a wrinkle-free young woman named Taylor Donoghue <a href="#">feigns outrage</a> at commenters who thought she might be in her early 30s. “Bye digging my own grave,” Ms. Donoghue, who is 23, wrote in her video’s caption.</p> <p>The oldest members of Gen Z are around 27. It may be that, like every human before them, they are simply getting older. The trend is all but certain to persist. Gen Z’s newfound preoccupation with aging has been greeted with a kind of schadenfreude in millennial pockets of social media. Commenters sneer: Do Gen Z-ers really believe they discovered age anxiety, the way they discovered low-rise jeans? Those seeking to cast blame have tried to pin Gen Z’s supposedly accelerated maturation on <a href="#">vaping</a>, <a href="#">makeup</a>, <a href="#">cancel culture</a> or <a href="#">karma</a>. Some have suggested the anti-aging products and procedures used by Gen Z-ers have, ironically, made them look older. . .</p> <p>A series of aging-related TikTok trends in recent months are further warping the fun house mirror. There are slide shows in which celebrities are gradually de-</p>



	<p>aged, like one that begins with Morgan Freeman at 85 and <a href="#">ends with him at 17</a>. There are A.I. face filters that spit out equally believable versions of users <a href="#">as a grandparent</a> or <a href="#">as a teenager</a>. . .</p> <p>As they age, Gen Z-ers will also have to let go of youth as a central part of their identity, said Mr. Howlett, whose video about looking older than 26 elicited more than 60,000 comments. He thinks that Gen Z’s fear of aging is accompanied by insecurity about what comes next. “Gen Z is so worried about turning 30, that time when you’re supposed to have everything put together,” he said.</p> <p>These insecurities are age-old, but increasingly they’re being processed in front of millions of viewers.</p> <p>“Your aging anxiety used to take place in the privacy of your own home or maybe with a very close friend or family member,” Professor Engeln said. “Now it happens on TikTok, with an audience.”</p>
Health Equity	<p><b>15. State House News</b> January 23, 2024 <a href="#">Five Takeaways From The MASsterList Health Equity Event</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Everyone says we should do something to reduce disparate levels of sickness and mortality between dark-skinned and light-skinned people.</li> <li>2) More passion- more energy- more footwork</li> <li>3) Rep. Bud Williams shared the concept of medical apartheid</li> <li>4) If the Health Equity Compact bill doesn't pass this session, parts of it likely will</li> <li>5) Number-one priorities: elimination of co-pays; maternal health; staffing reflective of the community being served; improving reimbursement rates for community providers.</li> </ol> <p>Video recording of session: <a href="#">Health Equity Event</a></p>
Public Policy	<p><b>16. State House News</b> January 24, 2024 <a href="#">Sunlight Act On Move, Targeting Legislature And Governor</a> By Michael P. Norton</p> <p>While the bill has a long path ahead of it, advocates for more government transparency are encouraged that a House-Senate committee on Tuesday gave a favorable report to a bill whose sponsors say it will bring needed "sunlight" to the legislative process and subject the governor's office to the public records law. The <a href="#">Joint Committee on Rules</a>, co-chaired by Sen. Joan Lovely of Salem and Rep. William Galvin of Canton, on Tuesday released the Sen. Jamie Eldridge bill (<a href="#">S 1963</a>).</p> <p>The progressive advocacy group Act on Mass has been pushing for passage of what it calls the Sunlight Act and says it will require all recorded committee votes to be posted on the Legislature’s website, require that committee hearings be scheduled at least a week in advance, make written testimony submitted to committees publicly available, and subject the governor's office to the public records law.</p>
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements">https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</a></p> <p>Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at <a href="mailto:rmoore8473@charter.net">rmoore8473@charter.net</a>.</p>
Websites	

YouTube Channels		
Previously recommended websites	The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/">https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/</a> . Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i> .	
Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/">https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/</a> .	
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/">https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</a>	
Contact information for reporting complaints and concerns	<b>Nursing home</b>	<a href="#">Department of Public Health</a> 1. Print and complete the <a href="#">Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form</a> 2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165 Or Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 <a href="#">Ombudsman Program</a>
Nursing Home Closures	<b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b> <i>South Dennis Health Care</i> Target closure date January 30, 2024 <a href="#">Notice of Intent to Close (PDF)</a>   <a href="#">(DOCX)</a>	
Nursing homes with admission freezes	<b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b> <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i> There have been no new postings on the DPH website since May 10, 2023.	
Massachusetts Department of Public Health Determination of Need Projects	<b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b> <i>Determination of Need Projects: Long Term Care</i> <b>2023</b> <a href="#">Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure</a> <a href="#">Royal Wayland Nursing Home, LLC – Conservation Long Term Care Project</a> <b>2022</b> <a href="#">Ascentria Care Alliance – Laurel Ridge</a> <a href="#">Ascentria Care Alliance – Lutheran Housing</a> <a href="#">Ascentria Care Alliance – Quaboag</a> <a href="#">Berkshire Healthcare Systems, Inc. – Windsor Long Term Care Conservation</a> <a href="#">Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital-Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure</a> <a href="#">Long Term Centers of Lexington – Pine Knoll – Long Term Care Conservation</a> <a href="#">Long Term Centers of Wrentham – Serenity Hill – Long Term Care Conservation</a> <a href="#">Next Step Healthcare LLC-Conservation Long Term Care Project</a> <a href="#">Royal Falmouth – Conservation Long Term Care</a> <a href="#">Royal Norwell – Long Term Care Conservation</a> <a href="#">Wellman Healthcare Group, Inc</a> <b>2020</b> <a href="#">Advocate Healthcare, LLC Amendment</a> <a href="#">Campion Health &amp; Wellness, Inc. – LTC - Substantial Change in Service</a> <a href="#">Heywood Healthcare, Inc. – Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure</a> <a href="#">Notre Dame Health Care Center, Inc. – LTC Conservation</a> <b>2020</b> <a href="#">Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, LLC.</a>	

<p>List of Special Focus Facilities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u>Belmont Manor Nursing Home, Inc.</u></a></p> <p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i>  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram">https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</a>  Updated March 29, 2023</p> <p>CMS has published a new list of <a href="#"><u>Special Focus Facilities</u></a> (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and candidate nursing homes.</p> <p>To be considered for the SFF program, a facility must have a history (at least 3 years) of serious quality issues. These nursing facilities generally have more deficiencies than the average facility, and more serious problems such as harm or injury to residents. Special Focus Facilities have more frequent surveys and are subject to progressive enforcement until it either graduates from the program or is terminated from Medicare and/or Medicaid.</p> <p>This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing home.</p> <p><b>What can advocates do with this information?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the list of facilities in your area/state when providing information to consumers who are looking for a nursing home. Include an explanation of the SFF program and the candidate list.</li> <li>• Post the list on your program’s/organization’s website (along with the explanation noted above).</li> <li>• Encourage current residents and families to check the list to see if their facility is included.</li> <li>• Urge residents and families in a candidate facility to ask the administrator what is being done to improve care.</li> <li>• Suggest that resident and family councils invite the administrator to a council meeting to talk about what the facility is doing to improve care, ask for ongoing updates, and share any council concerns.</li> <li>• For long-term care ombudsmen representatives: Meet with the administrator to discuss what the facility is doing to address problems and share any resources that might be helpful.</li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities listed (updated March 29, 2023)</b></p> <p><b>Newly added to the listing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Ridge Center, Somerset  <a href="https://somersetridgerehab.com/">https://somersetridgerehab.com/</a>  Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225747">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225747</a></li> <li>• South Dennis Healthcare  <a href="https://www.nextstephc.com/southdennis">https://www.nextstephc.com/southdennis</a>  Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225320">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225320</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities not improved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough</li> </ul>
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<https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225063>

**Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program**

- The Oxford Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Haverhill

<https://theoxfordrehabhealth.com/>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225218>

- Worcester Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Worcester

<https://worcesterrehabcare.com/>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225199>

**Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing (months on list)**

- Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation, Norwood (15)

<https://tinyurl.com/Charwell>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208>

- Glen Ridge Nursing Care Center (1)

<https://www.genesishcc.com/glenridge>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225523>

- Hathaway Manor Extended Care (1)

<https://hathawaymanor.org/>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225366>

- Medway Country Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, Medway (1)

<https://www.medwaymanor.com/>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225412>

- Mill Town Health and Rehabilitation, Amesbury (14)

No website

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225318>

- Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (10)

<https://plymouthrehab.com/>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225207>

- Tremont Health Care Center, Wareham (10)

<https://thetremontrehabcare.com/>

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225488>

- Vantage at Wilbraham (5)

No website

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225295>

- Vantage at South Hadley (12)

No website

Nursing home inspect information:

<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757>

<https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram>

<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p><b>ProPublica</b>  <b><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></b>  Data updated November 2022  This app uses data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Fines are listed for the past three years if a home has made partial or full payment (fines under appeal are not included). Information on deficiencies comes from a home’s last three inspection cycles, or roughly three years in total. The number of COVID-19 cases is since May 8, 2020, when homes were required to begin reporting this information to the federal government (some homes may have included data on earlier cases).  Massachusetts listing:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</a>  <b>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts</b>  <a href="#">(What do the severity ratings mean?)</a></p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th># reported</th> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><a href="#">250</a></td> <td><a href="#">B</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">82</a></td> <td><a href="#">C</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">7,056</a></td> <td><a href="#">D</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">1,850</a></td> <td><a href="#">E</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">546</a></td> <td><a href="#">F</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">487</a></td> <td><a href="#">G</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">31</a></td> <td><a href="#">H</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">1</a></td> <td><a href="#">I</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">40</a></td> <td><a href="#">J</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">7</a></td> <td><a href="#">K</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">2</a></td> <td><a href="#">L</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# reported	Deficiency Tag	<a href="#">250</a>	<a href="#">B</a>	<a href="#">82</a>	<a href="#">C</a>	<a href="#">7,056</a>	<a href="#">D</a>	<a href="#">1,850</a>	<a href="#">E</a>	<a href="#">546</a>	<a href="#">F</a>	<a href="#">487</a>	<a href="#">G</a>	<a href="#">31</a>	<a href="#">H</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">I</a>	<a href="#">40</a>	<a href="#">J</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">K</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">L</a>
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<p>Nursing Home Compare</p>	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</b>  <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i>  Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staff turnover:</b> The percentage of nursing staff as well as the number of administrators who have stopped working at a nursing home over the past 12-month period.</li> <li>• <b>Weekend staff:</b> The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period.</li> </ul> <p>Posting this information was required as part of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010. In many facilities, staffing is lower on weekends, often meaning residents have to wait longer or may not receive all the care they need. High turnover means that staff are less likely to know the residents, recognize changes in condition, or implement preferred methods of providing care. All of this contributes to the quality-of-care residents receive and their quality of life.  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite">https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</a></p>																								
<p>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</p>	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i>  CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common</p>																								

	ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to <a href="https://data.cms.gov">data.cms.gov</a> and updated monthly.																																													
Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data	<p><b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b>  <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i>  <i>Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</i></p> <p><b>Table of Contents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">COVID-19 Daily Dashboard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Additional COVID-19 Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data</a></li> </ul>																																													
DignityMA Call Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. <b>Download the <a href="#">DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA.</a></b></li> <li>• <b>Advocate</b> for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – <a href="#">State Legislative Endorsements</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Support</b> relevant bills in Washington – <a href="#">Federal Legislative Endorsements</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Join</b> our <a href="#">Work Groups</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Learn</b> to use and leverage social media at our workshops: <a href="#">Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content</a></li> </ul>																																													
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>  Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/">https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/</a>  Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/">https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/</a>  LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts">https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21">https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a></p>																																													
<p><b>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</b></p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).</p> <p>Please contact group lead for more information.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Workgroup</th> <th>Workgroup lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Membership</td> <td>Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos</td> <td><a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behavioral Health</td> <td>Frank Baskin</td> <td><a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Lachlan Forrow</td> <td><a href="mailto:lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities (Nursing homes)</td> <td>Arlene Germain</td> <td><a href="mailto:agermain@manhr.org">agermain@manhr.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home and Community Based Services</td> <td>Meg Coffin</td> <td><a href="mailto:mcoffin@centerlw.org">mcoffin@centerlw.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legislative</td> <td>Richard Moore</td> <td><a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Issues</td> <td>Jeni Kaplan</td> <td><a href="mailto:jkaplan@cpr-ma.org">jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <th>Interest Group</th> <th>Group lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Assisted Living and Rest Homes</td> <td>In formation</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>Bill Henning</td> <td><a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Veteran Services</td> <td>James Lomastro</td> <td><a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation</td> <td>Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh</td> <td><a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:cdhoeh@gmail.com">cdhoeh@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Covid / Long Covid</td> <td>James Lomastro</td> <td><a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Incarcerated Persons</td> <td>TBD</td> <td><a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	<a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a>	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	<a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a>	Communications	Lachlan Forrow	<a href="mailto:lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a>	Facilities (Nursing homes)	Arlene Germain	<a href="mailto:agermain@manhr.org">agermain@manhr.org</a>	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	<a href="mailto:mcoffin@centerlw.org">mcoffin@centerlw.org</a>	Legislative	Richard Moore	<a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a>	Legal Issues	Jeni Kaplan	<a href="mailto:jkaplan@cpr-ma.org">jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</a>	Interest Group	Group lead	Email	Assisted Living and Rest Homes	In formation		Housing	Bill Henning	<a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a>	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>	Transportation	Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh	<a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:cdhoeh@gmail.com">cdhoeh@gmail.com</a>	Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>	Incarcerated Persons	TBD	<a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>
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	<p>Editor: Paul Lanzikos          Primary contributor: Sandy Novack          MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke</p>
<p>Note of thanks</p>	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judi Fonsh</li> <li>• Scott Harshbarger</li> <li>• Chris Hoeh</li> <li>• Carol Menton</li> <li>• Dick Moore</li> <li>• Brianna Zimmerman</li> </ul> <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.</p> <p><i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to <a href="mailto:Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org">Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>.</i></p>
<p><i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them. The information presented in "The Dignity Digest" is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.</i></p> <p><i>Previous issues of <u>The Tuesday Digest</u> and <u>The Dignity Digest</u> are available at: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/">https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</a></i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a>.</i></p>	